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3-1-2001

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/01/2001 - Panel Discussion.pdf" (2001). 2001. 57.
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01-50

March 1, 2001

For Immediate Release:

SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO BE DISCUSSED BY LOCAL PANEL

CHARLESTON -- Issues such as sexual assault, family violence and elder abuse will be addressed Monday during a panel discussion sponsored by the Coles County Family Violence Coordinating Council.

"Women and Children: Advocacy Across the Lifespan" will begin at 4 p.m. in Room 318, Coleman Hall, on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. Admission to the event – being held in conjunction with the university's Women's History and Awareness Month celebration – is free and open to the public.

Sam Fuller, executive director of the Coles County Children's Advocacy Center, will moderate the panel of participants which will include Bonnie Buckley of Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services, Maureen Robinson of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Barb Estes of the Coles County Mental Health Center and Cindy Wiback from Cumberland Associates.

According to Fuller, panelists will provide an historical perspective on various family issues, as well as information about the services their agencies provide.

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PANEL DISCUSSION

For example, some people may not realize that husbands could, at one time, legally beat their wives. And, according to recent FBI data, more than 50 percent of child abductions result from domestic violence. Also, one out of every 25 elderly persons are victimized annually, Fuller said.

And, she added, as many as 50 percent of all homeless women and children in this country are fleeing domestic violence.

For information about the event, contact Fuller at 345-8250.